

Security Council approves six-month extension of UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus

26 January 2017 – Welcoming the progress thus far in negotiations led by Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders, as well as ongoing efforts, the United Nations Security Council today encouraged the sides to “grasp the current opportunity with determination” to secure a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus.

Through a unanimously adopted resolution, the 15-member Council called on the leaders to “put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues.”

It also called on them to “improve the public atmosphere for the negotiations, including by focussing public messages on convergences and the way ahead, and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages.”

The Council further urged the implementation of confidence-building measures, and said that it looked forward to agreement on and implementation of further such mutually-acceptable steps, that can contribute to a conducive environment for a settlement.

Also in the resolution, the Security Council – the primary UN body responsible for matters related to international peace and security – decided to extend the mandate of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until end of July this year.

The Council further called on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore the military status quo in Strovilia, which existed there prior to 30 June 2000, as well as called on both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone.

It also urged them to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone.

Also in the adopted text, the Council hailed efforts being undertaken by UNFICYP to implement the UN Secretary-General’s zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the UN code of conduct, and urged troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including conducting pre-deployment training.

It also called on the countries to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel.

UNFICYP – one of the longest-running UN peacekeeping missions – has been deployed on the Mediterranean island since 1964 to prevent further fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities there and bring

about a return to normal conditions.

[Press release: Avian flu confirmed at a farm near Boston, Lincolnshire](#)

From:

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Part of:

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu at a premises near Boston, Lincolnshire

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu at a turkey rearing farm near Boston, Lincolnshire.

A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

The flock is estimated to contain approximately 19,500 birds. A number have died and the remaining live birds at the premises will be humanely culled. A full investigation is under way to determine the source of the infection.

Public Health England advise that the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency is clear that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

[Read the latest advice and information on avian flu in the UK](#), including actions to reduce the risk of the disease spreading, advice for anyone who keeps poultry or captive birds and details of previous cases. Journalists with queries should [contact Defra press office](#).

[Speech: Holocaust Memorial Day 2017](#)

72 years ago the world learned of the liberation of Auschwitz and the full horror of the death camps.

And as we looked at the devastation wrought on the Jews of Europe, we swore that we would never let genocide happen again.

We failed.

Genocide happened in Cambodia.

It happened in Rwanda.

The 20th century ended with genocide in Bosnia.

The 21st century began with genocide in Darfur.

Faced not only with such unimaginable evil, but also with our repeated failure to learn from it, it's easy to ask "How can life go on?"

I find the answer in the words that one young victim of the Holocaust wrote in her diary.

"I still believe people are really good at heart".

Anne Frank was right.

People can be good.

We can be better.

We just need to be reminded of our failings, and not permitted to forget what happens when hatred is left to grow unchecked.

So, life can go on because life must go on.

Because we must remember.

That's why Holocaust Memorial Day is so important.

And that's why I'm so proud to be leading the work on the new [National Holocaust Memorial](#).

It's going to be built right outside Parliament, and concept designs will be unveiled at 10 Downing Street later on today.

The memorial will remind us of those who died and those who survived.

But it will also remind us that the Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers.

It began with words.

With discrimination.

With ordinary people not standing up to hatred.

And that's a message that's as relevant today as at any time in our history.

A message that must be shared, that must be passed on to our children and our children's children.

Because in the words of Zigi Shipper, one of 112 Holocaust survivors whose testimony has been recorded for the memorial project:

“I beg the young people, whatever you do, do not hate.

“Hate will ruin your life.”

Labour tables targeted amendments to Article 50 Bill

Today

Labour has tabled a number of targeted amendments to the Article 50 Bill (the European Union [Notification of Withdrawal] Bill).

The

amendments seek to improve the process, and would ensure Parliament is able to

hold the Government to account throughout the Brexit negotiations.

Labour

is also tabling an anti-tax haven amendment to ensure the Prime Minister doesn't use Brexit to weaken Britain's laws concerning tax avoidance and evasion.

Labour

will also support two amendments drafted by Melanie Onn MP which would protect workers' rights and ensure there is no drop in employment protection after the UK leaves the EU.

Labour's

amendments will:

i)

Allow a meaningful vote in Parliament on the final Brexit deal. **Labour's amendment would ensure that the House of Commons has the first say on any proposed deal** and that the consent of Parliament would be required before the deal is referred to the European Council and Parliament.

ii)

Establish a number of key principles the Government must seek to negotiate during the process, including **protecting workers' rights, securing full tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market.**

iii)

Ensure there is robust and regular Parliamentary scrutiny by requiring the Secretary of State to **report to the House at least every two months** on the progress being made on negotiations throughout the Brexit process

iv)

Guarantee legal rights for EU nationals living in the UK. Labour has repeatedly called for the Government to take this step, and this amendment would ensure EU citizens' rights are not part of the Brexit negotiations.

v)

Require the Government to **consult regularly with the governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland** throughout Brexit negotiations. Labour's amendment would put the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) on a statutory footing and require the UK Government to consult the JMC at least every two months.

vi)

Require the Government to **publish impact assessments** conducted since the referendum of any new proposed trading relationship with the EU. This amendment seeks to ensure there is much greater clarity on the likely impact of the Government's decision to exit the Single Market and seek new relationship with the Customs Union

vii)

Ensure the Government must **seek to retain all existing EU tax avoidance and evasion measures** post-Brexit

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, said:

"Labour will seek to amend the Article 50 Bill to prevent the Government using Brexit to turn Britain into a bargain basement tax haven off the coast of Europe. Our country can do much better than that.

"We respect the will of the British people, but not the will of this Tory government to impose fewer rights at work and worse public services, while the largest corporations pay even less tax.

"Labour will ensure that the British people, through Parliament, have genuine accountability and oversight over the Brexit negotiations because no one voted to give Prime Minister Theresa May a free hand over our future."

Keir Starmer, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, said:

“Now

that Parliament has the right to trigger Article 50, we need to ensure there is proper grip and accountability built into the process.

“Labour’s

amendments will also seek to ensure the Prime Minister secures the best deal for the whole country – including tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market and that there is no drop in workers’ rights.

“Labour’s

amendments will significantly improve the Government’s Bill – in particular by ensuring the House of Commons has the first say on the final Brexit deal and that there are regular opportunities to hold the Government to account.

“Labour’s

amendments will also seek to ensure the Prime Minister secures the best deal for the whole country – including tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market and that there is no drop in workers’ rights. We will also vigorously oppose any plans to reduce powers to tackle tax avoidance or evasion’.

“The

Article 50 Bill will be the start, not the end of the Brexit process and Labour will hold the Government to account all the way”

Melanie

Onn MP,

who has tabled two amendments with Frontbench support on workers’ rights said:

“The

Tories can’t be allowed to use Brexit as an excuse to water-down people’s rights at work.

“That’s

why I am introducing amendments to protect in British law all workers’ rights which originate from the EU, including maternity pay, equal rights for agency and part-time workers, and the working time directive.

“The

British people voted to leave the EU, but I don’t think anyone was voting for more insecure contracts or a less safe workplace.”

[News story: UK Holocaust memorial design competition: tell us what you think](#)

From:

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Submit your feedback on the 10 shortlisted designs for the new UK National Holocaust Memorial.

The UK's National Holocaust Memorial and learning centre will stand in the shadow of Parliament, at the heart of our democracy, in Victoria Tower Gardens. This striking new structure will honour victims and survivors of Nazi persecution. It will also educate future generations about the dangers of prejudice and hatred, and serve as a powerful statement of our values as a nation.

The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation launched a [memorial international design competition](#) in September 2016. It sought to identify the very best architectural talent to create an emotionally powerful and sensitively designed memorial. Ninety-two teams expressed an interest in the project, with a [shortlist of 10 invited to submit concept designs](#). These designs are being displayed publically at a number of venues across the UK as well as online.

We are consulting on the shortlist with the public, those working in the field of Holocaust remembrance and education, and technical experts. This consultation will play a crucial role in informing the jury's final decision on the memorial.

A summary of the feedback we receive will be fed into the jury. Note that we are not able to respond to individual submissions.

Thank you for sharing your views with the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.